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It was an odd turn of affairs which made so many of the earlier missionaries recorders of geography. Foreign missions were a new venture of faith; not wholly accepted by the churches, they had to prove their way; each missionary, therefore, was largely dependent for his support upon his ability to write an interesting account of his labors and the field in which they were prosecuted which might be read at the "monthly concerts" and thus win contributions for his cause. In this volume, summing up his half century of activity in Siam, Dr. McGilvary clung very sedulously to the text of his letters written while events were fresh. It results that the work must take immediate place as the fundamental record of our earliest knowledge of the formerly independent states which, under his observing eye, became the northern provinces of Siam. The sum of the strictly geographical information is remarkably large.

WILLIAM CHURCHILL.

The Japanese Nation, Its Land, Its People and Its Life. With Special Consideration to Its Relations with the United States. By Inazo Nitobé. xiii and 334 pp. Map, index. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1912. \$1.50. 8 x 5½.

No geographer, and still less no layman, should consider his judgment of the Japanese nation down to date and well balanced who has not read this unprejudiced volume. The author writes with a source of knowledge that is first hand, and presents his material with a flow of language that is of unusual literary merit and full of intensive meaning. There are twelve chapters representing as many lectures delivered in six American universities in 1911-12, during which period Dr. Nitobé was exchange professor in this country. While every chapter is worthy of special note, Chapter 5 on "Religious Beliefs" and Chapter 11 on "The Relation Between the United States and Japan" call for particular mention. Perhaps no phase of Japanese life is so universally misunderstood as the religious attitude. It is doubtful whether one can find a clearer exposition of Shinto and Buddhism in Japan, than in Chapter 5.

One lecture delivered at Leland Stamford Junior University, not included in the twelve, appears as an appendix, owing to the "local allusions" contained therein. An outline map of the Pacific Ocean and bordering lands, with sailing routes between American, Asiatic and Australian ports, follows the appendix. An index completes this valuable contribution to our study of the world's nations.

EUGENE VAN CLEEF.

The Sea Road to the East. Gibraltar to Wei-hai-wei. Six Lectures. By A. J. Sargent. vii and 124 pp. Maps, ills. George Philip & Son, Ltd., London, 1912. 1s. 7½ x 5½.

This little volume containing six lectures descriptive of critical points en route from the Mediterranean to China, and accompanied by a few photographs, is quite instructive. The photographs are reproductions of some of the lantern slides that have been prepared to accompany the lectures.

Because the text refers to slides not before the reader, some of the statements are not as clear as they might be. However, the vivid style offsets this handicap in most cases and the attention is held throughout. The discussions in general present excellent geographic material for the average lay reader. Of course advanced literary style and completeness of information are almost of necessity lacking; on the other hand, its simplicity of portrayal is in its favor.

An outline map of the world (with a photograph of Valetta on the reverse side) showing ocean routes from Europe to the Orient serves as a frontispiece.

EUGENE VAN CLEEF.

AUSTRALASIA AND POLYNESIA

Kaiser-Wilhelms-Land. Beobachtungen und Erlebnisse in den Urwäldern Neuguineas. Von Dr. Eugen Werner. xiv and 314 pp. Map, ills., index. B. Herder, St. Louis, Mo., 1911. \$2.35. 9½ x 6½.

The strength of this valuable yet wholly unpretentious volume in its exposition of a field scarcely touched, lies in the vivacity of the author's obser-